

thread out of the first hole; then she took hold of both ends of the thread and pulled hard, but carefully, and all the thread came out of the first hole. Amy rubbed the apple, which was a fine red one, until it shone like glass. The needle holes did not show.

When papa came home, Amy gave him the apple, and he sat down by the fire to eat it. He began to peel it with his sharp knife. Oh how surprised he looked when the apple suddenly fell in two when he had it a little more than half peeled!

Amy was pleased and surprised too, for she had not realized that she had cut the apple in two under the skin when she pulled the thread out; but she had.

Any child with a little care, can make a magic apple just as Amy did, and surprise somebody very much.—*Youth Companion*.

FOR HIS MOTHER'S SAKE

The florist's boy had just swept some broken and withered flowers in the gutter, when a ragged urchin darted across the street. He stooped over the pile of mangled flowers, and, looking them carefully through, came at last upon a rose seemingly in better condition than the rest. But as he tenderly picked it up the petals fluttered to the ground, leaving only the bare stalk in his hand.

He stood quite still and his lips quivered perceptibly. The florist's boy, who had been looking at him severely, felt that his face was softening, "What is the matter with you, anyway?" he asked.

The ragged little fellow choked as he answered "It's for my mother. She's sick and she can't eat nothin', an' I thought if she'd a flower to smell, it might make her feel better."

"Just you wait a minute," said the florist's boy, as he disappeared. When he came out upon the sidewalk he held in his hand a beautiful half-opened rose, which he carefully wrapped in tissue paper. "There," he said, "take that to your mother." He had meant to put that rosebud on his mother's grave, and yet he knew he had done the better thing. "She'll understand," he said to himself, "and I know this will please her most."—*Selected*.

Our Young People

NOT TO BE MINISTERED UNTO BUT TO MINISTER

Matt. 20 : 20-28

The Hindoos have a custom that at each meal a portion is first given to the beasts and birds, next, a portion to the beggars, then the men folks eat, and finally if there is anything left the women eat it. They explain this custom by saying that they regard woman as the highest creation and therefore she has the greatest duty. The effect of this philosophy is just the same as dividing men into castes and classes by regarding some as inferior and therefore rightfully slaves.

The Christian teaching is that "There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither bond nor free; there is neither male nor female; for all are one in Christ Jesus." Gal. 3 : 28.

Therefore it is just as incumbent upon the men to practice self-denial as upon the women.

The Savior put it "whosoever will be great among you shall be your minister." Mark 10 : 42-45.

We learn first then that *love is the test of true*

greatness. See also I Cor. 13 : 13. Our standing in the kingdom will be determined more by it than anything else. I Cor. 13 : 1-3; Rom. 13 : 10; John 13 : 35. But love is shown by some manifestation of it. Study this point well. See Rom. 5 : 8; John 15 : 13; Gal. 5 : 6; Ezek. 33 : 31; II Cor. 8 : 24; II John 6.

Paul applied this principle to his own example and that of the other apostles, I Cor. 4 : 6-16, as Christ had done before him. Matt. 20 : 20-28. Therefore it is vain to profess to love God and not prove it by deeds of love to men. I John 3 : 14; Jas. 2 : 14-16; Isa. 6, 7.

The observance of church services and ordinances is to help us that this ministry of love may become natural. Eph. 4 : 12-15.

The scriptures therefore are full of teaching as to the practical things we can do one for another. Here are a few of them :

- Bear one another's burdens. Gal. 6 : 2.
- Love one another. I Pet. 1 : 22.
- Provoke one another to good works. Heb. 10 : 24.
- Exhort one another. Heb. 3 : 3.
- In honor preferring one another. Rom. 12 : 10.
- Help the poor. I Tim. 6 : 17, 18.
- Help the afflicted. Job 29 : 15, 16.
- And the distressed. Acts 11 : 27-30.
- Visit the sick and imprisoned. Matt. 25 : 35-40.
- Be neighborly to the stranger. Prov. 27 : 10.
- And many such things. Rom. 12 : 13-19.

The reward is as sure as the one who promised is true. Matt. 25 : 40; Luke 6 : 33-38.

POINTS FOR THOUGHT

1. How is it that "no man liveth unto himself?" Rom. 14 : 7.
2. How does it react upon our own life to help another life?
3. Christ our example in ministering. Matt. 20 : 28; Rom. 15 : 3; Acts 10 : 38; etc.
4. What practical work can we as a society do in the work of ministering.

The flower committee and others can make suggestions here. The need of a fund for the poor might be discussed. Arrangements might be made to gather up clothing, or papers, etc., to be distributed where needed. Any of our city missions will be glad for donations.

Of course the leader will select appropriate songs but the lesson is rich in scriptures. You need not sing more than a verse or two at a time.

KEEP CLEAN COMPANY

C. H. WETHERBE

No self-respecting young man can afford to be habitually in the company of any other young man who has no respect for himself nor any regard for God. Many a youth who was favored with excellent parents and good training, and who had always deported himself finely, has been sadly led astray by evil companionships. And in many instances the evil companions were outwardly respectable, belonging to highly respectable families. It is such ones as these that are extremely dangerous.

Their moral poison is concealed. They are very deceitful characters. Outwardly they are fair, but inwardly they are full of moral foulness. Many parents, supposing that their children were in good, clean company, have finally been horrified upon learning that the companions of their sons and daughters were vile creatures. But young men of good characters can soon discern whether those whom they associate with are morally pure or not. And just as soon as the self-respecting young man finds that the one whose company he is beginning to keep

is a foul-mouthed, skeptical young man, he should at once desert him severely.

Certainly no Christian young man should allow himself to be the companion of a profane, vicious young man. He may try hard to influence the godless young man to forsake his ways and become a Christian, but it is quite another matter to be intimately and steadily in his company. Need I urge any Christian young lady to avoid the company of any dissolute young man? Need such a one be urged to refrain from keeping company with an intemperate, profane young man? Such urgency should not be needed; but alas! there is too frequent occasion for it! One of the mysteries is, that any intelligent, well-bred, sincere Christian young woman can allow herself to keep intimate, cordial company with a godless, profane, intemperate young man. Yet it is a fact, and a sad one, too, that some Christian young ladies have actually entered into courtship with intemperate and licentious young men! Oh, as you value your souls and moral decency, do keep clean company!

The Sunday School

LESSON FOR DECEMBER 5

BY THE EDITOR

Christ's Humility and Exaltation.—Phil. 2 : 1-11

GOLDEN TEXT—Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. Phil. 2 : 5.

LESSON THOUGHT.—Humility is the only way that leads to true exaltation.

Home Readings

Christ's Humility, etc., Phil. 2 : 1-11.

Meekness of Christ, Isa. 42 : 1-7.

Lowly in heart, Matt. 11 : 25-30.

Lower than the angels, Heb. 2 : 9-18.

Example of humility, John 13 : 1-15.

First and last, Rev. 1 : 1-8.

Worthy the Lamb, Rev. 6 : 9-14.

Introductory Notes

The epistle to the Philippians was written by Paul during his imprisonment at Rome, about the year A. D. 63. If you turn to Acts 16, you will find that the church at Philippi was the birthplace of European Christianity. Here is where Paul first planted the cross of Christ in Europe, and the first convert to the cross was a woman. It was now eleven years old. The Philippians had a special love for Paul and four times they relieved his needs by their generosity. Paul therefore felt very tenderly toward them, and in response to their fourth generous gift Paul wrote this affectionate letter. A messenger had brought the gift to Rome and by this messenger Paul sent the letter. The part of the letter selected for our lesson to-day is one of the richest passages in the epistle. It teaches the beautiful lesson of humility and in doing this Paul holds up before us the example of Christ. True exaltation can come only thro the valley of humility.

Meaning of the Text

1. *If there be*. This is not an expression